

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade
September 24, 2012
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Important Dates

October 3	Walk to School Day
October 8	No School -- Columbus Day
October 15	Picture Day
October 16-19	PTO Book Fair
October 16-18	Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 18	Half Day of School
October 19	Half Day of School
October 31	Bowling Outing

Dear Families,

It was a pleasure seeing so many families at Curriculum Night. If you were not able to attend, you can access our presentation in pdf form by clicking on this link:

<http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Please also be sure to sign up for a conference with your child's teacher. Each conference will last 30 minutes, with 15 minutes spent with each of your child's teachers.

MAP scores will be sent home with your child this Wednesday. Please be sure to ask your child for the envelope. You will have an opportunity to discuss the scores with your child's teacher at conferences.

Art - As we complete our Elements of Art projects, we are learning about artist statements and how to write one to explain our artwork to others. Also, going home this week is a form for students who are interested in joining Art Club. We will meet on Wednesdays during recess and will be working on a variety of art projects including school murals, digital art projects and more. Students interested need to follow the directions and submit a letter of interest to me by 9/28.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are using recorders again in music this week. If your child cannot find theirs they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to District 97 to purchase a new one. You may also click here to buy a [recorder online from the Holmes store](#). Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. If financial assistance is needed, email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org.

Chorus- Chorus' first concert is at the Oak Park Arms Saturday, October 27th. Please go to the chorus website for the [lyrics to the songs we are singing as well as the permission slip](#) if you have not signed one for your child yet.

Spanish - The fifth graders have been learning about los conquistadores in Spanish class. We will be starting a story on Montaña Hamburguesa very soon!

Library - This past week we delved into using the library catalog. Students and their families can access the Holmes library catalog from their own homes by going to the library webpage.

Reading Olympians: there will be a brief meeting Friday, September 28 during recess to talk about RO. Your homeroom teachers will remind you, but please be sure to stop by the library at 11:30 that day. Those wishing to stay in the library for the whole recess are welcome to hang out with me to read RO books. As always, please keep up with us on the library blog (holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com) and email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week we will continue on with our first reading unit, "Courage." Throughout this unit, students will read poems, nonfiction texts, fictional narratives, articles, primary source documents, etc that illustrate examples of courage. At the end of the unit, students will be required to write an essay answering the question, "What does it mean to be courageous." During the second week, students will read about individuals standing up for what's right. The two stories and one information text they will read this week, show individuals standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves; specifically animals.

We will have our first literature circle discussion around the book, **The Breadwinner on Wednesday, September 26th.** Students have been assigned a certain number of chapters to read by Wednesday, as well as complete a role sheet they will share with their groups. The second literature circle discussion will be on Wednesday, October 3rd. Students will have several more chapters to read, as well as a new role sheet to complete by October 3rd.

Language Arts

During our our first unit of study in writing students will focus on investigating what it means to have strong personal character. This week students will pick one of the paragraphs they wrote last week to revising. We will specifically look to improve the word choice and sentence fluency of the piece.

Math

This week, we will be working on multiplying decimals. Today we practiced rounding and making magnitude estimates. Later in the week, we will work on multiplying decimals using both the partial products method and the lattice method for multiplication. Take a look at your child's Student Reference Book or the 5th grade wiki for an explanation of these multiplication methods. On Friday, we will take our weekly quiz and a pretest for our next unit, division.

Science

In science this week, we are investigating several forms of renewable energy with hands-on activities. On Monday, we went to several locations around the outside of the school to measure the wind using anemometers. Tuesday, we will use pizza boxes to construct solar ovens. On Thursday, we will actually use the ovens to cook food. Every Friday is our research day in the library with Ms. Maneck. She has demonstrated the use of source cards and note cards the past two weeks. Please take a few minutes to ask your child about his or her research topic.

Social Studies

Big Question: What effect did the Spanish Conquistadors have on the Americas?

This week, we will be learning about how the Americas were colonized by Spanish explorers. The students will also be assigned an explorer research project. Each student will be choose an explorer they would like to learn more about and create a treasure chest that includes a map, timeline, journal entries and artifacts having to do with the explorer. This will be due October 9th.

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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